

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-60 (Canceled)

61. (Currently Amended) A coupling device for engaging an anchor member, the coupling device comprising:

a frame defining a ~~top surface~~ top wall and a pair of juxtaposed sides extending downwardly from the ~~top surface~~ top wall to a bottom surface, the frame defining a mouth between the top wall and the bottom surface[[s]] at one end thereof and an opposite end, the mouth defining an opening thereto, the bottom surface defining an opening between the mouth and the opposite end of the frame, the opening in the bottom surface opening to a void defined between the sides of the frame that is separate from the mouth, and

a lever movably mounted to the frame at a mounting location, the lever having a distal end that is movable relative to the frame between a first position in which the distal end of the lever covers the opening of the mouth and a second position in which the distal end of the lever does not cover the opening of the mouth, the lever defining a manipulation portion between the mounting location and the distal end that extends through and below the opening in the bottom surface of the frame when the distal end is in the first position, the manipulation portion responsive to a direct pushing force applied

thereto to extend through the opening in the bottom surface of the frame and into the void defined between the sides of the frame when the lever moves from the first position to the second position, and

a biasing member positioned in the void defined between the sides of the frame, the biasing member extending between the ~~top surface~~ top wall of the frame and the lever, the biasing member biasing the lever toward the first position.

62. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 61 wherein the biasing member contacts one surface of the manipulation portion of the lever.

63. (Currently Amended) The coupling device of claim 61 wherein the ~~top surface~~ top wall of the frame defines an opening therethrough separate from the mouth, and wherein the distal end of the lever extends through and beyond the opening defined in the ~~top surface~~ top wall of the frame when the lever is moved from the first position to the second position.

64. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 61 further comprising a cover configured to receive the frame and lever therein, the cover defining a first opening therein that aligns with the mouth defined by the frame when the frame is received within the cover such that the mouth defined by the frame is accessible through the first opening defined by the cover when the frame and lever are received within the cover.

65. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 64 wherein the cover defines a second opening therein that aligns with the opening defined in the bottom surface of the frame when the frame and lever are received within the cover such that the manipulation portion of the lever extends outwardly away from the second opening defined in the cover when the distal end of the lever is in the first position.

66. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 64 wherein the cover comprises a plurality of external surfaces that are formed in the shapes of corresponding portions of a head of an animal.

67. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 66 wherein the plurality of external surfaces are formed in the shapes of corresponding portions of a head of a dog.

68. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 66 wherein the plurality of external surfaces are formed in the shapes of one or more of a pair of ears, a pair of eyes, a nose, a nose ridge, whisker indentations, a rounded head and a rounded forehead, of the animal.

69. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 64 wherein the mouth defined by the cover is formed in the shape of a mouth of an animal and the distal end of the lever is formed in the shape of a tooth of the animal.

70. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 69 wherein the mouth defined by the cover is formed in the shape of a mouth of a dog and the distal end of the lever is formed in the shape of a tooth of the dog,

and wherein the cover comprises a plurality of external surfaces that are formed in the shapes of corresponding portions of a head of the dog.

71. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 70 wherein the plurality of external surfaces are formed in the shapes of one or more of a pair of ears, a pair of eyes, a nose, a nose ridge, whisker indentations, a rounded head and a rounded forehead, of the dog.

72. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 71 wherein the cover has a color.

73. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 72 wherein the color is selected from the group consisting of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, black, brown, white, magenta, cyan, violet, purple, tan, pink, and beige.

74. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 61 further comprising a mounting assembly mounted to the opposite end of the frame, the mounting assembly configured to attach to any of a flexible, semi-flexible, semi-rigid and rigid elongate member.

75. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 61 wherein the biasing member comprises a spring.

76. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 75 wherein the spring has an end opposite to the distal end that is movably mounted to the frame at the mounting location,

and wherein the spring contacts the lever between the distal end of the lever and the end opposite to the distal end of the lever.